This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~The serviceable muffler according to claim 4~~ A serviceable muffler comprising a muffler body for containing an element requiring servicing, said body having an open end allowing access to said element for removal and replacement of said element through said open end, an end plate closing said body at said open end, at least one of said end plate and said open end of said body having a flared rounded portion, a clamp releasably clamping said end plate to said open end to close said body and being releasable to permit removal of said end plate from said open end of said body for gaining access to said element, wherein each of said end plate and said open end of said body has a flared rounded portion, and further comprising in combination an apertured flange having an outer border with a flared rounded portion complemental to the flared rounded portion of each of said end plate and said open end of said body, said apertured flange having an inner border defined by an aperture therethrough, wherein said element in said body is removed and replaced through said aperture, wherein said body extends axially along an axis between first and second axially distally opposite axial ends, said first axial end being said open end, and wherein said flared rounded portions of said end plate and of said open end of said body and of said apertured flange are all axially aligned, and wherein said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange is located axially between and in engagement with each of said flared rounded portion of said end plate and said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The serviceable muffler according to claim 7~~ A serviceable muffler comprising a muffler body for containing an element requiring servicing, said body having an open end allowing access to said element for removal and replacement of said element through said open end, an end plate closing said body at said open end, at least one of said end plate and said open end of said body having a flared rounded portion, a clamp releasably clamping said end plate to said open end to close said body and being releasable to permit removal of said end plate from said open end of said body for gaining access to said element, wherein each of said end plate and said open end of said body has a flared rounded portion, and further comprising in combination an apertured flange having an outer border with a flared rounded portion complemental to the flared rounded portion of each of said end plate and said open end of said body, said apertured flange having an inner border defined by an aperture therethrough, wherein said element in said body is removed and replaced through said aperture, wherein said body extends axially along an axis between first and second axially distally opposite axial ends, said first axial end being said open end, and wherein said flared rounded portions of said end plate and of said open end of said body and of said apertured flange are all axially aligned, and wherein said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange is located axially between said flared rounded portion of said end plate and said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, wherein said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange has a first arcuate surface facing in a first axial direction away from said second axial end of said body, and has a second arcuate surface facing in a second axial direction toward said second axial end of said body, said second axial direction being opposite to said first axial direction, and wherein said first arcuate surface of said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange engages said flared rounded portion of said end plate, and said second arcuate surface of said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange engages said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, wherein said open end of said body has a first section extending axially along said first axial direction to said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, and has a second section extending axially along said second axial direction from said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, said second section having a terminating end spaced laterally outwardly of said first section by a pocket of given lateral width, wherein said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange is a first rounded portion of said apertured flange, and wherein said apertured flange has a second rounded portion, and wherein said apertured flange has a first section extending axially along said first axial direction to said first rounded portion of said apertured flange, and has a second section extending axially along said second axial direction from said first rounded portion of said apertured flange to said second rounded portion of said apertured flange, and has a third section extending axially along said first axial direction from said second rounded portion of said apertured flange, and wherein said third section of said apertured flange extends axially into said pocket, wherein said second rounded portion of said apertured flange has a first arcuate surface facing axially in said first axial direction toward said terminating end of said second section of said open end of said body, and has a second arcuate surface facing axially in said second axial direction and engaged by said clamp, and wherein said rounded portion of said end plate has a first arcuate surface facing axially in said first axial direction, and has a second arcuate surface facing axially in said second axial direction, said second arcuate surface of said rounded portion of said end plate engaging said first arcuate surface of said first rounded portion of said apertured flange, said first arcuate surface of said rounded portion of said end plate being engaged by said clamp, said clamp having first and second engagement surfaces, said first engagement surface facing axially in said first axial direction and engaging said second arcuate surface of said second rounded portion of said apertured flange, said second engagement surface facing axially in said second axial direction and engaging said first arcuate surface of said rounded portion of said end plate.

Claims 9-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): ~~The method according to claim 19~~ A method for making a serviceable muffler comprising providing a muffler body for containing an element requiring servicing, said body having an open end allowing access to said element for removal and replacement of said element through said open end, said body extending axially along an axis between first and second distally opposite axial ends, said first axial end being said open end, said body having an axially extending sidewall, providing an apertured flange having an outer border for cooperating with said open end of said body, and having an inner border defined by an aperture therethrough, wherein said element in said body is removed and replaced through said aperture, said apertured flange having an axially extending sidewall, and comprising inserting said apertured flange into said body, with said sidewalls in abutting relation, and flaring at least one of said sidewalls to a flared rounded configuration having a convex curvature facing in a first axial direction away from said second axial end of said body, for receiving an end plate clamped thereto, wherein said sidewall of said body has a pre-flared laterally extending portion at a first end, said sidewall of said apertured flange has a pre-flared laterally extending portion at a first end extending laterally beyond said first end of said sidewall of said body, and comprising engaging first end of said sidewall of said apertured flange with a mandrel having a curved engagement surface, and moving said mandrel laterally inwardly toward said body to further flare and curl said sidewall of said apertured flange around said first end of said sidewall of said body, and continuing to move said mandrel laterally inwardly to further flare and curl of both of said sidewalls around said open end of said body, wherein at the completion of said continued movement of said mandrel, said first end of said sidewall of said body is spaced laterally outwardly of said first end of said sidewall of said apertured flange by a lateral gap therebetween, and comprising engaging said curled and flared sidewall of said apertured flange with a second mandrel, and moving said second mandrel laterally inwardly to close said lateral gap and move said first end of said sidewall of said body laterally into engagement with said first end of said sidewall of said apertured flange.

Claims 21-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (new): A serviceable muffler comprising a muffler body for containing an element requiring servicing, said body having an open end allowing access to said element for removal and replacement of said element through said open end, an end plate closing said body at said open end, at least one of said end plate and said open end of said body having a flared rounded portion, a clamp releasably clamping said end plate to said open end to close said body and being releasable to permit removal of said end plate from said open end of said body for gaining access to said element, each of said end plate and said open end of said body has a flared rounded portion, and further comprising in combination an apertured flange having an outer border with a flared rounded portion complemental to the flared rounded portion of each of said end plate and said open end of said body, said apertured flange having an inner border defined by an aperture therethrough, wherein said element in said body is removed and replaced through said aperture, wherein said body extends axially along an axis between first and second axially distally opposite axial ends, said first axial end being said open end, and wherein said flared rounded portions of said end plate and of said open end of said body and of said apertured flange are all axially aligned, and wherein said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange is located axially between said flared rounded portion of said end plate and said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, wherein said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange has a first arcuate surface facing in a first axial direction away from said second axial end of said body, and has a second arcuate surface facing in a second axial direction toward said second axial end of said body, said second axial direction being opposite to said first axial direction, and wherein said first arcuate surface of said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange engages said flared rounded portion of said end plate, and said second arcuate surface of said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange engages said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, wherein said open end of said body has a first section extending axially along said first axial direction to said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, and has a second section extending axially along said second axial direction from said flared rounded portion of said open end of said body, said second section having a terminating end spaced laterally outwardly of said first section by a pocket of given lateral width, wherein said flared rounded portion of said apertured flange is a first rounded portion of said apertured flange, and wherein said apertured flange has a second rounded portion, and wherein said apertured flange has a first section extending axially along said first axial direction to said first rounded portion of said apertured flange, and has a second section extending axially along said second axial direction from said first rounded portion of said apertured flange to said second rounded portion of said apertured flange, and has a third section extending axially along said first axial direction from said second rounded portion of said apertured flange, and wherein said third section of said apertured flange extends axially into said pocket, said second section of said apertured flange being laterally outward of and engaging said second section of said open end of said body, said second section of said open end of said body being laterally outward of and engaging said third section of said apertured flange, said third section of said apertured flange being laterally outward of and engaging said first section of said open end of said body, said first section of said open end of said body being laterally outward of and engaging said first section of said apertured flange.

Claim 25 (new): The serviceable muffler according to claim 24 wherein said end plate extends laterally inwardly from said flared rounded portion of said end plate and then extends axially in said second axial direction along an axial extension section, said axial extension section of said end plate being laterally inwardly spaced from said first section of said apertured flange by a lateral gap therebetween.